United Nations ECE/CTCS/2018/11

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
22 February 2018

Original: English

## Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

**Fourth session**
Geneva, 3-4 May 2018
Item 6 (c) of the provisional agenda
**Programme of work**

# Cooperation with other organizations and Economic Commission for Europe bodies

**Submitted by the Secretariat**

## I. Introduction

1. This document maps cooperation arrangements under the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) sub-programme on trade during 2017. The first part provides an overview of collaborative efforts with development partners, while the second features a detailed account of the areas and cooperation mechanisms underpinning these efforts.

2. Sections implemented by the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) are for information only.

## Part One

## II. Agricultural Quality Standards

3. ECE continues to pool efforts with the UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in implementing the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project for strengthening the capacity of transition and developing economies to participate in cross-border agricultural food supply chains.[1] In September 2017, ECE and ESCAP

[1] The project was launched in September 2014 to strengthen national capacities for using international best practices, tools and instruments as well as developing integrated strategies for facilitating cross-border agri-food trade

GE.18-02740(E)

*1802740*

Please recycle

organized the first cross-regional Workshop on promoting cross-border trade of meat and electronic certification in Nanjing and Tianjin, China to assist private and public sector stakeholders in implementing ECE agricultural quality standards as well as electronic certification to facilitate and enhance the sustainable trade in meat.

4. ECE continued to work closely with the European Commission to maintain the complete harmonization of marketing standards with ECE standards. It also cooperated with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Scheme for the Application of International Standards for Fruit and Vegetables to facilitate the common interpretation of ECE standards and their application in international trade. It also cooperates with the Codex Alimentarius Committees on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables and on Processed Fruits and Vegetables in developing commercial quality standards and maintaining existing standards.

5. ECE is working closely with UN countries teams in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It has organized jointly with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and donor agencies a cross-border workshop on fresh fruit and vegetables in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and a workshop and practical training on meat markets (Dublin, Ireland). UNDP also helped with the organization of the Farmers' Market on ECE's 70th anniversary to promote and display production and it relation to ECE standards. The country teams were also vital in disseminating and promoting UNECE's work in this area to substantiate their work on the ground. It also organized joint activities with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on Rooting for Sustainable Food and the Reduction of Food Loss (November 2017). .

6. Cooperation is on-going with ITC on the dissemination and development of training material for sustainable trade of agricultural produce as well as with the WTO Standards and Trade Development Facility (WTO STDF) in the areas of meat standards, traceability and food safety.

7. Cooperation has also started with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on the cross-regional use of methodologies for the analysis of documentary and procedural gaps in their agricultural trade with ECE countries and among themselves, the development of domestic and export market built on safe and quality food and the use of the WP.7's work in this area.

# III. Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies

## A. Cooperation with the International Organizations

8. Through the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6), ECE is a permanent observer at the WTO Committee on Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT). ECE participated in all the meetings and provides the Committee with updates on its activities and the emerging needs of ECE member States. The WTO Secretariat has also taken part in several of the annual sessions and events of the Working Party.

9. As part of its cooperation with OECD, ECE participated in the fourth Meeting of International Organisations on partnership on for effective international rule-making in April 2017 in Paris, as well as in the brainstorming session of the core group of the Partnership in November 2017.

10. WP.6 collaborated with International Trade Centre (ITC) in the area of gender-responsive standards initiative. The first meeting took place in April 2017 at ITC headquarters in Geneva. Further cooperation is planned with ITC programme "Trade for

Sustainable Development – I4SD' in reviewing its database of voluntary sustainability standards to improve its criteria related to gender equality.

11. ECE works closely with United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) to promote the implementation of international standards for supporting the reduction of disaster risks. The secretary of the Working Party acts as the focal point for Disaster Risk Reduction, and advocates the use of ECE best practice guidelines and recommendations to support the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. ECE co-organised with UNISDR a round-table on SDG 11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities" during the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for the UNECE Region in March 2018.

12. ECE is also cooperating with United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The secretary of SCTCS took part of the Expert Meeting on Voluntary Sustainability Standards, Market Access and Trade-led Sustainable development in September 2017 as discussant. ECE also collaborated with UNCTAD Consultative Group on Enterprise Reporting and the Sustainable Development Goals (ISAR) on core indicators for enterprise reporting on the SDGs.

13. The ECE contributed to the work of the E15 Initiative – a joint initiative of the International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) – and in particular the Task Force on "Regulatory Coherence".

## B. Partnerships with regional organizations

14. The European Commission (EC) participated in WP.6 meetings, and contributed to ECE work on equipment used in environments with an explosive atmosphere. The Commission also participated in the ECE activities in support of market surveillance and inspections.

15. The International Model on Regulatory Harmonization, as contained in the UNECE WP.6 Recommendation L, was used extensively by the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Interstate Council for Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC).

## C. Cooperation with standard setting and quality infrastructure organizations

### (a) Standardization policies

16. ECE participated at the ISO Annual Session of 2017 and worked with the World Standards Cooperation (WSC), which supports high-level collaboration between the IEC, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

17. A number of standardization organizations take part in the Annual Session of WP.6, including among others, the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM), European Committee for Standardization (CEN), European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC), Global Standards One (GS1), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), ISO, International Social and Environmental Accreditation and Labelling Alliance (ISEAL), ITU and World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

18. WP.6 sectoral initiative on "equipment used in environments with an explosive atmosphere" benefits from partnerships with IEC and its System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmosphere (IECEx) with the

support of the German government through the Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB). A UNECE-IECEx Workshop took place in April 2017 in Shanghai, China and an International Conference of IECEx in cooperation with UNECE will take place in April 2018 in Split, Croatia.

19. The WP.6 Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM) is also built on a partnership with standard-setting bodies, in particular, with the ISO Technical Committee (TC) 262 on Risk Management.

20. IEC and ISO are also close partners for the Working Party's activities in the area of conformity assessment, specifically, through the IEC Conformity Assessment Board, the IEC Conformity Assessment Systems and the ISO Committee on Conformity Assessment (ISO CASCO). In addition, WP.6 is a member of the Strategic Alliance and Regulatory Group (STAR), which provides strategic advice to the CASCO Committee of ISO. A new sectoral initiative on cybersecurity was approved at the 27th Plenary Session of WP.6 in cooperation with IEC in November 2017.

**(b) Metrology and other areas of the national and international system of quality infrastructure**

21. WP.6 works in partnership with national, regional and international institutions including: the Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), International Committee of Weights and Measures (CIPM), International Accreditation Forum (IAF), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation (ILAC), International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML), International Committee for Legal Metrology (CIML), ISO, ITU and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

22. Since 2010, the Working Party has been a member of the "International Network on Quality Infrastructure" (previously Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries (DCMAS)), which includes: BIPM, CIPM, International Accreditation Forum (IAF), IEC, ILAC, OIML, International Committee for Legal Metrology (CIML), ISO, ITU and UNIDO.

## IV. Trade Facilitation

23. ECE is part of the United Nations Inter-Agency cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity. The cluster, which is led by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), was established in 2007 to create synergies between productive capacity-building and trade development under the United Nations "Delivering as One" initiative.

24. ECE also participates in the Joint United Nations Regional Commissions (UNRCs) Approach on Trade Facilitation, launched in January 2010 by the five UN Regional Commissions. In 2017, the ECE and its sister regional commissions launched the second Global Survey conducted, which covered 120 countries. The results were presented at UNRCs joint events during the World Trade Organization (WTO) Aid for Trade Global Review, held in Geneva (July 2017), and the 11th WTO Ministerial in Buenos Aires, Argentina (December 2017).

25. As a member of the Global Facilitation Partnership for Transportation and Trade (GFPT)[2] ECE contributed to the organisation of GFP Steering Committee meeting, held in Geneva, Switzerland on 19-20 January 2017.

26. In 2017, ECE joined UNCTAD's multi-stakeholder initiative "eTrade for All", which now brings together 22 international organizations to support the developing countries trade development efforts. Events in 2017 include the "E-Commerce and Trade Logistics: New Challenges, Opportunities and Solutions for International Transport and Trade Facilitation" that was jointly organized with UNCTAD, the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the World Customs Organization (WCO).

27. ECE remains dedicated to assist member states with their obligations under the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement. During 2017, ECE supported UNCTAD Empowerment Programme for National Trade Facilitation Committees (NTFCs) in Cameroon, Gabon and Benin (May and August 2017).

28. ECE has also signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Asia Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (AFACT) in April 2017. It is currently working on a joint project with ITC and the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) to develop a traceability framework in the garment sector.

29. ECE has been cooperating with several European Commission Directorate Generals (DGs) over the past years. In 2017, ECE participated in the Directorate-General for Mobility and Transport (DG-MOVE) Digital Transport and Logistics Forum (DTLF) sub-group workshops, which looked into the documentary requirements in transport and logistics and their dematerialization. DG-MOVE was invited to present their work at the fourth UNECE Single Window Conference. Moreover, the Directorate-General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (DG-MARE) has been actively engaging with the work of the ECE Team of Specialists on Sustainable Fisheries.

30. ECE cooperated with the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) and organized several joint events such as the conference on Single Window implementation in Moscow in December 2017, and a series of workshops for training trade agencies on supply chain management, simplification of import and exports procedures.

31. The Parties to the Electronic Business Memorandum of Understanding (eBMoU) signed between the UNECE, the International Standards Organization (ISO), the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) Committee have met in November 2017, December 2017 and January 2018.

32. ECE supported ISO Technical Committees (TCs) Category-A liaisons, including ISO TC 154 (Processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry and administration), ISO TC 204 (Intelligent Transport Systems), ISO TC 307 (Blockchain) and ISO TC 308 (Chain of Custody). This completes the Category-A liaison already established with ISO PC 295 (Audit data collection) and the Category-B liaison with ISO TC 68 (Financial services). ECE also worked with ISO TC 154 on UN/EDIFACT syntax and the United Nations Trade Data Element Dictionary (UNTDED).

[2] GFP is an alliance of national and international organizations involved in supporting trade and transport facilitation. Its members include the World Bank, International Chambers of Commerce (ICC), International Trade Centre (ITC), OECD, UNCTAD, UNECE, UNESCAP, UNIDO and the World Customs Organization (WCO). Further details are available at http://www.gfptt.org/partners for the full list.

# Part Two

## Cooperation with other organizations: summary table

| *Organization* | *Mechanisms for cooperation* | *Current cooperation* |
|---|---|---|
| Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization (BSEC) | UNECE-BSEC MoU | Assisted BSEC in developing a regional trade facilitation strategy. The strategy was submitted in October 2017 for the approval of BSEC Member States. |
| Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Euro-Asian Interstate Council for Standardization, Certification and Metrology (EASC) and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) | Representatives of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Euro-Asian Interstate Council for Standardization, Certification and Metrology (EASC) participate regularly in WP.6 meetings. | - Participate in WP.6 meetings and use WP.6 International Model on Regulatory Harmonization |
| European Commission (EC) | The EC participates in the ECE activities related to market surveillance, regulatory cooperation and risk management. | The EC participates in all the annual sessions of WP.6, providing input into the work and updates on its own activities. The EC contributed to and expressed appreciation for the ECE work in the sector of equipment used in environments with an explosive atmosphere, which it regards as international best practice. The Commission also continues to participate in the ECE activities on market surveillance and inspections, where the ECE has become the platform for the exchange of expertise between the EU and other member states. The European Commission was an active partner in the work of Group of Experts on risk management in regulatory framework.<br><br>The EC also closely cooperates with and attends the annual meetings of WP.7 and its Specialized Sections. |
| | The ECE contributes to Working Group on Single Window implementation, led by EC's DG TAXUD | The ECE participates as a contributor to the Working Group on Single Window implementation, led by EC's DG TAXUD |
| European Union (EU) DG MOVE | ECE ITS is an observer in the DTLF, Digital Transport and Logistics Forum | ECE ITS has participated in three face to face meetings of the DTLF in 2017 and contributed to the development of their sub-group 1 paper on digital transport documents. |
| European Union (EU) DG TAXUD | DG TAXUD organizes regular meetings of the Member States' Single Window Implementation group | ECE supported Single Window Implementation Group and contributed directly to the debates and reflexions. |
| Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) | Blockchain project<br><br>Team of Specialists on | FAO participated in the UN/CEFACT Conference on Blockchain, contributing to the directions that a future White Paper on the subject will take. |

| *Organization* | *Mechanisms for cooperation* | *Current cooperation* |
|---|---|---|
| | Sustainable Fishery | FAO is active in the Team of Specialist on Sustainable Fisheries. |
| | Joint workshops. | |
| Codex Alimentarius Commission | | ECE standards are circulated to Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, the Codex Committee on Processed Fruits and Vegetables and the Codex Alimentarius Commission. |
| International Air Transport Association (IATA). | ECE signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen their support to developing countries seeking to implement the World Trade Organization (WTO) Trade Facilitation Agreement. | Joint promotion of the use of international recommendations and standards and best practices in Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business; |
| | | Joint outreach activities to support countries in their implementation of such recommendation and standards - subject to available resources. |
| | | ECE TFS participated in meetings of the IATA group on location codes, further promoting the convergence of the IATA airport codes and UN Location Codes for Trade and Transport (UN/LOCODE) which is widely used by all other means of transport and administrations. |
| International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) | Memorandum of Understanding between ECE and ICC | Participation in the trade facilitation Working Group of UN CEFACT. |
| | Cooperation with ICC-Ukraine | Support for trade facilitation in Ukraine, notably through the Interagency Working Group on Trade Facilitation and Logistics of Ukraine, chaired by ICC-Ukraine. |
| International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Telecommunication Union (ITU), International Organization for Standardization (ISO) | Memorandum of Understanding between ECE, IEC, ISO and ITU. | Ongoing cooperation and coordination between the secretariats. |
| | | Each organization acts as secretary to the MoU Management Group on a rotating basis. |
| | | Management meetings twice a year between the secretariats, the expert groups and international user groups. |
| | | Summit meetings by the Memorandum of Understanding Management group on coordination and standardization issues. |
| | | Ongoing cooperation and coordination between the secretariats. |
| | | Each organization acts as secretary to the MoU Management Group on a rotating basis. |
| | | Management meetings twice a year in 2017 between the secretariats, the expert groups and international user groups. |
| | | Several meetings between the signatory organizations |

| *Organization* | *Mechanisms for cooperation* | *Current cooperation* |
|---|---|---|
| | | in order to study how best to optimize this MoU. |
| International Trade Centre (ITC) | ECE, UNCTAD and ITC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 22 April 2005 for delivering coordinated outreach and support activities to help the developing countries implement the WTO ATF | ITC collaborates with ECE on the dissemination and development of training material on trade facilitation and on the dissemination of ECE agricultural quality standards.<br><br>Cooperation in the organization of joint events<br><br>Several joint projects underway. |
| International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) TC 31, the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmosphere (IECEx); and Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB) | Partnership for preparing and implementing a common regulatory framework in the sector of "equipment used in environments with an explosive atmosphere" | IECEx organises yearly international conferences in collaboration of UNECE. IECEx and PTB participate in Plenary Sessions of WP.6<br><br>WP.6 is working on a new initiative on cybersecurity in cooperation with IEC. |
| International Organization for Standardization (ISO)<br><br>(See also ISO Technical Committees 127, 154, 262, 292 and IEC, ITU and ISO) | Memorandum of Understanding between IEC, ISO, ITU and ECE. | ISO attends all WP.6 meetings and annual seminars as well as UN/CEFACT sessions<br><br>TC 127 contributes to the WP.6 sectoral regulatory project "Earth-Moving Machinery Initiative". |
| | Electronic Business Memorandum of Understanding between IEC, ISO, ITU and ECE | ECE TFS is the representing ECE within the eB-MoU<br><br>ISO attends all UN/CEFACT sessions<br><br>ECE TFS is a voting member in the ISO 3166 Maintenance Agency (alpha-2 country code) |
| ISO Technical Committee 154<br><br>(See also ISO and IEC, ITU and ISO) | Regular Working Group Meetings<br><br>Annual Plenary meetings<br><br>The MoU for ECE to be Secretary of an ISO Technical Committee is unique of its kind. | ECE is member of the joint maintenance agency of the ISO 7372 Standard (Trade Data Element Directory). |
| ISO Technical Committee 68 on Financial Services | Category B liaison | ECE TFS maintains a Category B liaison with ISO TC 68, sharing information on ongoing work and avoiding unnecessary overlaps.<br><br>Active participation in ISO TC 68 meetings. |
| ISO Technical Committee 154 on Processes, data elements and documents in commerce, industry and administration | Category A liaison | ECE TFS maintains a Category A liaison with ISO TC 154, ensuring compatibility of standards and avoiding unnecessary overlaps.<br><br>ECE is member of the joint maintenance agency of the ISO 7372 Standard (Trade Data Element Directory).<br><br>ECE is a member of the joint working group for ISO |

| *Organization* | *Mechanisms for cooperation* | *Current cooperation* |
|---|---|---|
| | | 9735 Standard (EDIFACT application level syntax rules) |
| | | Active participation in ISO TC 154 meetings. |
| ISO Technical Committee 204 on Intelligent Transport Systems | Category A liaison | ECE TFS maintains a Category A liaison with ISO TC 204, aiming to ensure compatibility of standards and avoiding unnecessary overlaps. |
| | | Participation in each other's meetings. |
| ISO Project Committee 295 on Audit data collection | Category A liaison | ECE TFS maintains a Category A liaison with ISO PC 295, aiming to ensure compatibility of standards and avoiding unnecessary overlaps. |
| | | Encouraging this newly founded group to reuse the base standards which have already been developed in this field instead of creating new ones. |
| | | Active participation in ISO PC 295 meetings. |
| ISO TC 307 on Blockchain technologies | Category A liaison | ECE TFS maintains a Category A liaison with ISO TC 307, aiming to ensure compatibility of standards and avoiding unnecessary overlaps. |
| | | Provided a good deal of background information and technical examples to the development of ISO TC 307 work. |
| | | Active participation in ISO TC 307 meetings. |
| ISO Technical Committee 262 on Risk Management | The Chairperson of the ISO TC 262 in 2016 is also chairing the Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Cooperation (GRM) of WP.6 | Regular coordination, information exchange and activities in the area of risk management with substantial support to GRM. |
| ISO Technical Committee 292 on Security and Resilience | The Head of Regulatory Cooperation Unit of UNECE is co-Convener of the UN Task Force of TC 292. This Task Force has been established to explore opportunities within the area of disaster risk reduction and supporting implementation of various of frameworks and programs developed by the United Nations. | Regular coordination of information exchange and activities within the area of disaster risk reduction and supporting implementation of various of frameworks and programs developed by the United Nations by the Head of Regulatory Cooperation Unit of ECE. |
| The Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM), International Committee of Weights and Measures (CIPM), International Accreditation Forum (IAF), International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), International Laboratory Accreditation Co-operation | All these organizations attend the meetings of the "International Network on Quality Infrastructure" (previously "Network on Metrology, Accreditation and Standardization for Developing Countries" (DCMAS)). The Bureau International des | WP.6 is part of the "International Network on Quality Infrastructure"<br>BIPM is evaluating a possible use of the Recommendation L in the field of legal metrology.<br>WP. 6 works closely with IEC, its Conformity Assessment Board and its three Conformity Assessment Systems (IECEE, IECEx and IECQ) and its TC 31 on the project "Equipment for explosive |

| *Organization* | *Mechanisms for cooperation* | *Current cooperation* |
|---|---|---|
| (ILAC), International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML), International Committee for Legal Metrology (CIML), ISO, ITU and UNIDO | Poids et Mesures (BIPM) participates actively in the meetings of the WP. 6. | atmospheres. |
| | A number of standards-making bodies, including CEN, CENELEC, GSI, IEC, ISO and ITU, take part regularly in the annual session of WP. 6 and provide updates on their activities, and contribute throughout the year to the progress of these activities. | The IECEE attended several ECE meetings and participates in the work of the Group of Experts on Risk Management.<br>The ECE secretariat attends and gives presentations or updates on the WP. 6 activities in the context of ISO/CASCO.<br>A partnership has been established with the ISO Committee on Consumer Policies (COPOLCO). |
| | The secretariat also is invited to attend meetings of national, regional and international standards-making bodies. | |
| Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC) and the CIS Inter-State Council on Standardization, Metrology and Certification (EASC) | Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC) is a coordinating body of the ministries of communications of 12 CIS states, with a secretariat in Moscow. | RCC participates in UN/CEFACT Plenaries and Forums. RCC's representatives are leading the UN/CEFACT project for the preparation of a Recommendation for ensuring legally significant trusted transboundary electronic interaction. |
| | CIS Inter-State Council on Standardization, Metrology and Certification is one of the effective, functioning inter-regional CIS organizations/bodies that unites standardization bodies from all 12 CIS member states. | |
| The Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) | The Vice-Chairman of the WP.6 is also the Minister of Technical Regulations of EEC | There are regular contacts and information exchange between WP.6 and EEC on best practices in the area of regulatory cooperation. |
| | UNECE-EEC MoU with attached Programme of Action | Following up on a long-standing cooperation on trade facilitation and the Single Window with the Customs law department of the EEC we carried out capacity-building on Single Window in the digital economy. |
| Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) | The two organizations regularly exchange information through their secretariats and attend each other's meetings when possible. | WP. 6 secretariat prepared a case study based on the OECD is methodology to review International Regulatory Cooperation activities carried out under the umbrella of the ECE. The study was published in November 2016 as an OECD booklet and was presented to the OECD member states. |
| | | UNECE cooperates with OECD in organising Annual Meetings of International Organisations: A partnership for effective international rule-making. |
| | Joint meetings | Active participation in OECD conferences and meetings (e.g. OECD Due Diligence Forum 2018) |

| *Organization* | *Mechanisms for cooperation* | *Current cooperation* |
|---|---|---|
| OECD Scheme for the application of international standards for fruit and vegetables | Meeting schedules are set up in coordination between secretaries and secretariats actively participate in each other's relevant meetings. Joint organization of capacity-building events. | OECD adopts ECE standards.<br>The ECE and the OECD work closely on updating and interpreting the standards. |
| Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) | Contributions to analytical work | ECE contributes to trade-related parts of reviews and activities under the OSCE economic dimension, drawing on the recommendations emerging from the studies on Regulatory and Procedural Barriers to Trade and the work of the Trade Sub-Programme as a whole. |
| | Joint activity | ECE has worked with OSCE on training courses in Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Belarus. |
| Regional Commissions of the United Nations | Meetings<br>Joint projects | Coordination meetings with all four regional commissions on trade and on trade facilitation<br>UN Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) other regional commissions in implementing the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) projects: on Strengthening the capacity of transition and developing economies to participate in cross-border agricultural food supply chains. ECE and UNESCAP support actively the UN activities with the Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA). |
| | Collaboration on trade facilitation in common member States and joint support for the SPECA Programme | ECE Regional Adviser collaborated in the preparation and will collaborate on the future implementation of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) 11th tranche and a Russian financed project for trade facilitation in the transition economies. |
| United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) | ECE, UNCTAD and ITC have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for delivering coordinated outreach and support activities to help the developing countries implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA). | ECE and UNCTAD cooperate closely on providing support to countries in the implementation of the WTO TFA. This includes participation in each other's workshops on the topic. |
| | | ECE is collaborating with UNCTAD in the delivery of training in the area of trade facilitation. |
| | ECE is also a signatory to a MoU with the Global Facilitation Partnership (GFP) since 2005. It is a core partner and Steering Committee member of the GFP, along with the World Bank, WCO, UNCTAD, United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), OECD and the International Road | Joint activities and participation in each other's meetings, seminars and forums, joint organization of seminars and mutual contribution to projects.<br>UNCTAD high-level representative opened the 27th Plenary Session of WP.6 |

| Organization | Mechanisms for cooperation | Current cooperation |
|---|---|---|
| | Transport Union (IRU). | |
| | In compliance with an MoU among UNECE, UNCTAD and ITC on the implementation of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement we assist the countries assess their readiness and implement the TFA | The ECE Regional Adviser in Trade collaborated with UNCTAD and GIZ in 2017 on an assessment of the readiness of Azerbaijan to implement the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement |
| United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | Meeting schedules are set up in coordination between secretariats. Joint organization of capacity-building events. | Joint training and capacity-building activities in Central Asia to improve the countries integration into international agricultural supply chains. This includes organization of workshops, conducting studies, consultations, and development of training material |
| | Work plans coordinated with the country UNDP offices, UN country teams and with the UNDP regional hub in Istanbul. | UNDP participates and provides support for trade facilitation capacity-building activities and for SPECA activities. UNDP participated with a keynote presentation on trade and the SDGs at the 2017 meeting of the SPECA Working Group on Trade. |
| UNEP | Meetings | Active participation in UN/CEFACT conferences and meetings (e.g. Conference on Transparency in Sustainable Textile Vlaue Chains June and October 2017) |
| United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) | UNIDO is a member of the GFP | Participation in joint meetings on trade facilitation implementation. |
| | UNIDO is a member of the "International Network on Quality | UNIDO participates in WP.6 sessions. |
| | Infrastructure" | |
| | (previously DCMAS network) | |
| UN Inter-Agency Cluster on Trade and Productive Capacity (UNCTAD, UNIDO, FAO, ILO, UNECTRAL, ITC, WTO, UNDP, the five Regional Commissions, UNEP and UNOPS) | The members of the Cluster provide assistance in building the capacity in the areas of trade and productive policies, in particular in supply side capacity; export capacity; capacity to implement trade and trade related rules; disputes settlement capacity; negotiating capacity; as well as in research and analysis. | The Cluster designs and implements joint programmes. ECE has been involved in activities undertaken in its member countries. |
| United Nations United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) | The ECE Group of Experts on Risk Management in Regulatory Systems (GRM) participates in UNISDR activities | GRM participated in coordinating UN contribution to the implementation of the "Sendai Framework for Action" as agreed at the Third WCDRR in ISO TC 292. ECE co-organised with UNISDR a round-table on SDG11 "Sustainable Cities and Communities" during the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development for UNECE Region in March 2018. |
| | ECE works closely with UNISDR to promote the | |

| Organization | Mechanisms for cooperation | Areas of cooperation |
|---|---|---|
| | implementation of international standards as a tool for the reduction of disaster risks | |
| World Customs Organization (WCO) | ECE-WCO MoU signed in 2001 | WCO participates in UN/CEFACT meetings and expert groups |
| | ECE signed a MoU with GFP in March 2005. ECE is a core partner and Steering Committee member of the GFP, along with the World Bank, WCO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, OECD and the IRU | WCO contributes to ECE work on the Supply Chain Model |
| | | WCO contributes to ECE work on Single Window |
| World Bank (WB) | The United Nations Trade Facilitation Network is an informal inter-agency group comprising WB, ITC, WTO, UNCTAD and ECE | ECE participates actively in and contributes substantial materials to the GFP website |
| | ECE signed a MoU with the Global Facilitation Partnership for Trade and Transport (GFP) in March 2005. ECE is a core partner and Steering Committee member of the GFP, along with the World Bank, WCO, UNCTAD, UNIDO, OECD and the IRU | WB participates in the trade and transport facilitation PDA of UN/CEFACT meetings |
| | Support by WB to a variety of ECE capacity-building activities and reciprocal support from the ECE to WB goals and objectives, particularly in the area of trade and transport facilitation | WB has selected the ECE Single Window Recommendation as the base for its projects in this area |
| World Trade Organization (WTO) | The United Nations Trade Facilitation Network is an inter-agency group comprising WB, ITC, WTO, UNCTAD and ECE | WTO representatives regularly attend meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards |
| | ECE and WTO staff meet regularly outside the inter-agency group | ECE works with WTO on the implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement in transition countries |
| | Through WP.6, the ECE is a permanent observer at the WTO TBT. The WP. 6 participated in all the meetings of the WTO TBT and provided updates on each activity at each of them | Through WP.6, ECE is a permanent observer at the WTO Committee on TBT |
| | | ECE Trade Division attends some WTO committee sessions (as representative of the regional commissions of the United Nations) |
| | | WTO representatives regularly attend the trade facilitation group of UN/CEFACT meetings |
| | | ECE works with WTO on the implementation of Trade Facilitation Agreement in transition countries |
| | | ECE Trade Division attends some WTO committee sessions (as representative of the regional commissions |

| Organization | Mechanism for cooperation | Current cooperation |
|---|---|---|
| | | of the United Nations).<br><br>WTO attends the trade facilitation group of UN/CEFACT meetings.<br><br>The WTO's Standards and Trade Development Facility (STDF) collaborates with ECE on the dissemination and development of training material for sustainable trade of agricultural products. |

United Nations ECE/CTCS/2018/12

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
20 February 2018

Original: English

## Economic Commission for Europe

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

Geneva, 3–4 May 2018
Item 6 (e) of the provisional agenda
**Programme of work**

# Trade subprogramme biennial evaluation report for 2016-2017

**Note by the secretariat**

*Summary*

This document provides the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) trade subprogramme ("the subprogramme") biennial evaluation report for 2016–2017. The report measures the subprogramme's performance against the expected accomplishments (EA) and indicators of achievement (IA) as established under the subprogramme's programme of work (ECE/CTCS/2015/7).

The evaluation covers the sub-programme's main areas of work, which are supported by the Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardization Policies (WP.6), the Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards (WP.7); the United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business (UN/CEFACT), and the secretariat to support Member States in their efforts to implement of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools on trade facilitation, regulatory cooperation and agricultural quality standards.

The Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards (CTCS) is invited to endorse the segments related to the Steering Committee and its subsidiary bodies, WP.6 and WP.7. The evaluation of UN/CEFACT is provided for information only.

GE.18-02587(E)

*1802587*

Please recycle

## Introduction

1. Consistent with the Trade subprogramme's programme of work, the evaluation report applies a results-based management (RBM) approach which establishes logical relationship between the hierarchical results (outputs – outcomes – impact) or 'results chain', the resources (human and financial) or 'inputs' and the external factors (strategic, governance, operational, financial) that have a direct bearing on the achievement of the objective.

2. The objective of the subprogramme was to strengthen trade facilitation and trade-related economic cooperation in the ECE region, and external factors were: (a) there is political will and cooperation among Governments and international organizations; (b) there is demand from public and private sectors for ECE standards and recommendations; (c) member States provide the necessary information; (d) there is active participation by experts in ECE technical meetings; and (e) donors provide extra-budgetary funding.

3. The responsibility for the subprogramme was vested in the Economic Cooperation and Trade Division.

4. The document maps the expected accomplishments with the corresponding indicators and associated performance measures by area of work, and provides reflections on lessons learned.

## I. Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies

**Expected accomplishment**

5. Increased consensus on best practices and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for regulatory cooperation.

**Indicators of achievement**

6. Number of new and/or revised recommendations and tools for regulatory cooperation adopted by the ECE:

*Performance measures:*

- 2012-2013: 2 new and/or revised recommendations and tools
- Estimate 2014-2015: 1 new and/or revised recommendations and tools
- Target 2016-2017: 2 new and/or revised recommendations and tools
- Achieved: 4 new and/or revised recommendations and tools

**Statement of accomplishments**

7. WP.6 adopted Recommendation T on "Standards and Regulations for Sustainable Development", which is geared to enhance the contribution of voluntary standards and regulatory frameworks in achieving the Agenda 2030. In addition, the member States adopted Recommendation S on "Applying predictive risk management tools for targeted market surveillance" as well as the updated version of Recommendations F "Creation and Promotion of International Agreements on Conformity Assessment" and G "Acceptance of Conformity Assessment Results". Recommendations F and G support governments' efforts to establish, promote and implement conformity assessment procedures, while Recommendation S fosters a culture of prevention of accidents on the basis of a structured

assessment of risks. These Recommendations help Governments avoid establishing procedures that are not justified on grounds of safety and public health.

**Lessons learned**

8. ECE member States highlighted the need to regularly review existing Recommendations to ensure their continued relevance. This renders increased outreach and strong cooperation with the standards, conformity assessment, research and academic community crucial, so as to access and tap into the required expertise knowledge. ECE will follow this approach in the next biennium.

## II. Working Party on Agricultural Quality Standards

**Expected accomplishment**

9. Increased consensus on best practices and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards.

**Indicators of achievement**

(a) Number of new and/or revised recommendations and standards on agricultural produce adopted by the ECE:

*Performance measures*:

- 2012-2013: 25 new and/or revised recommendations and standards
- Estimate 2014-2015: 25 new and/or revised recommendations and standards
- Target 2016-2017: 25 new and/or revised recommendations and standards
- Achieved: 39 new and/or revised recommendations and standards

(b) Number of implementations of existing, new or revised ECE agricultural quality standards by member States:

*Performance measures*:

- 2012-2013: 970 implementations
- Estimate 2014-2015: 1,000 implementations
- Target 2016-2017: 1,000 implementations
- Achieved: 1,500 implementations

(c) Number of opened PDF files with ECE recommendations and standards on agricultural produce, as a proxy for their use:

*Performance measures*:

- 2012-2013: Not available
- Estimate 2014-2015: Not available
- Target 2016-2017: 45,000 files
- Achieved: 75, 379 files

**Statement of accomplishments**

10. The number of adopted and revised agricultural quality standards reached 39, thus exceeding the biennial target. The 4 Specialized Sections adopted new and revised standards to cope with increased demand for updates and trade relevant practices. The

newly adopted standards include: veal and lamb retail meat cuts, edible co-products, eggs-in-shell, egg products, duck meat, walnuts, walnut kernels, inshell almonds, pistachios, almond kernels, walnut kernel brochure, dried apricots, dried figs, dried grapes, dried coconut pieces, dried bananas, seed potatoes, aubergines, avocadoes, leeks, garlic, chicory, sweet chestnuts, table grapes, truffles, sweet peppers, citrus fruit, rhubarb, cherries, fennel, plums, fresh figs, kiwi fruit, headed cabbages, apples, pears, tomatoes, explanatory posters on dried apricot.

11. Implementations by Member States was 1500, owing to the EU's harmonization efforts harmonization effort by all EU member states to align their standards with those of ECE as well the new adoptions of nuts and dried fruit, meat and seed potato standards by e.g. China, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Morocco, Poland, Russian Federation, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and Vietnam. Brazil and Namibia export fresh figs using ECE standards. Australia's beef and lamb meat cuts exported to over one hundred countries followed ECE standards.

12. The number of opened PDF files exceeded the target, attesting to the increased relevance and use of the standards as tool to foster quality food production and sale. A major share of the opened files include Fresh Fruits and Vegetables standards. The number also includes new and revised standards and explanatory brochures in Dry and Dried Products, Meat and Seed Potatoes.

13. The increased ECE capacity-building efforts paired with new guidance material and initiatives on food loss reduction, traceability, code of good practice, base line quality for domestic and export markets, eating quality, have strengthened the uptake and use of ECE recommendations for agricultural produce quality, sustainable production and consumption both within and outside the ECE region.

**Lessons learned**

14. The impact of standards on sustainable trade, production and consumption can be significantly increased through outreach, advisory missions, workshops and linkages with the work of other international organizations, non-governmental organizations and donor agencies. Linking standards' development to related issues (e.g. food waste reduction, food safety), and fostering closer cooperation among all parties has increased the implementation of agricultural standards worldwide. This approach will be upheld by the secretariat.

## III. United Nations Centre for Trade Facilitation and e-Business

**Expected accomplishment**

15. Increased consensus on best practices and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business.

**Indicators of achievement**

(a) Number of new and/or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business adopted by the ECE:

*Performance measures:*

- 2012-2013: 24 new and/or revised instruments
- Estimate 2014-2015: 24 new and/or revised instruments
- Target 2016-2017: 22 new and/or revised instruments

- Achieved: 51 new and/or revised instruments

(b) Number of page views of ECE key trade facilitation and electronic business recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools, as a proxy for their use:

*Performance measures*:

- 2012-2013: Not available
- Estimate 2014-2015: Not available
- Target 2016-2017: 900,000 page views
- Achieved:2,607,600 page views

**Statement of accomplishments**

16. During 2016-2017, the UN Centre for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (UN/CEFACT) approved 51 new and/or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools, which is more than double the target of the biennium. The list includes, among others: Recommendation 1 on United Nations Layout Key for Trade Documents - Recommendation 36 on Single Window Interoperability; Recommendation 41 on Public-Private Partnerships in Trade Facilitation; Recommendation 42 on Trade and Transport Facilitation Monitoring Mechanisms; UN Global Report 2017 on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation; UNECE Regional Report 2017 on Trade Facilitation and Paperless Trade Implementation; Briefing note on the contribution of UN CEFACT to UN Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls; Briefing note on the contribution of UN CEFACT to UN Sustainable Development Goal 14; Background paper: facilitating trade to feed the world; Recommendations of the 4th UNECE International Conference on Single Window of 30-31 October 2017, Geneva, Switzerland; Technical Note on Terminology for Single Window and Other Electronic Platforms; White Paper on a Reference Data Model (RDM); Green Paper on Trade Finance as a tool for Trade Facilitation; UNECE Study on Traceability for Sustainable Textile value Chains; Supply Chain Reference Data Model (SCRDM) Guideline; Executive Guide on Core Component Technical Specification (UN/CCTS & the UN/CCL); Executive Guide on UN/EDIFACT; Executive Guide on Small Scaled Lodging House Information Process; White Paper on Paperless Trade; 4 UN/EDIFACT Directories (Versions D.16A, D.16B, D.17A and D.17B); 4 UN/LOCODE Directories (Versions 2016-1, 2016-2, 2017-1 and 2017-2); 4 UN/CEFACT Core Component Libraries (Versions D.16A, D.16B, D.17A and D.17B); 4 UN/CEFACT XML Schema Libraries (Versions D.16A, D.16B, D.17A and D.17B); 2 Codes for Units of Measure Used in International Trade (Recommendation 20, Revision 11 and 12 of the code list); Trade and Transport Status Codes (Recommendation 24, revision 24 of the code list); Verified Gross Mass (VERMAS) Business Requirement Specifications; Cross-Industry Remittance Advice Business Requirement Specifications; Cross-Industry Remittance Advice Requirements Specification Mapping; Transboundary Movements of Waste Business Requirement Specifications; Transboundary Movements of Waste Requirements Specification Mapping; Supply Chain Data Reference Model Business Requirement Specifications; Supply Chain Data Reference Model Requirements Specification Mapping; Cross-Industry Invoicing Business Requirement Specifications; Cross-Industry Invoicing Requirements Specification Mapping; Accounting Journal Book Business Requirement Specifications; Accounting Journal Book Requirements Specification Mapping ; Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange (FLUX) Business Requirement Specifications P1000-v1.0; and, Fisheries Language for Universal eXchange (FLUX) Business Requirement Specifications P1000-v1.1.

17. In addition, ECE helped member States implement the World Trade Organization Agreement on Trade Facilitation. This involved assisting them in adopting key

recommendations on partnership, measuring efficiency, single window and aligned documents as well as e-business standards such as data libraries, code lists and electronic messages. Albania and Kyrgyzstan received ECE assistance to implement trade facilitation measures. ECE recommendations also support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially on sustainable fishery (SDG14), single window (SDG 8 and SDG17) and electronic messaging standards notably on e-Invoicing (SDG17). ECE promoted these tools through active cooperation with development partners.

18. Over 2.5 million page views of ECE instruments for trade facilitation and electronic business were registered in 2016-2017, demonstrating the pertinence of these tools. About two-thirds of the page views were from the UN Trade and Transport Location Code (UN/LOCODE). The rest included UN/CEFACT pages on 41 recommendations and over 400 standards, technical specifications and tools. Some of the key ones include EDIFACT, Core Component Data Type Catalogue, Core Component Technical Specification and more. Apart from this, the online knowledge management tool, the Trade Facilitation Implementation Guide (TFIG) attracted about 674,000 unique visitors and 3.7 million page views throughout the biennium.

**Lessons learned**

19. The development and revision of standards and recommendations on trade facilitation and electronic business was strategically selected following the entry of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation into force early 2017. This enabled ECE to respond, within limited resources, to the increasing demand of tools supporting the implementation of this agreement. ECE member States expressed interest in developing a Framework Agreement on e-Trade to advance paperless trade. This will be addressed in the next biennium.

## IV. Secretariat to the Steering Committee

**Expected accomplishment**

20. Enhanced national capacity of member States for the implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools.

**Indicators of achievement**

21. Number of new national actions to implement ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools:

*Performance measures:*

- 2012-2013: Not available
- Estimate 2014-2015: Not available
- Target 2016-2017: 4 national actions
- Achieved: 6 national actions

**Statement of accomplishments**

22. The 6 national actions were based on the results of the national studies on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, carried out by the secretariat in Albania, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Moldova. The national actions drew on the result-oriented recommendations emerging from the studies, which were developed in consultation with public and private sector stakeholders. The recommendations were geared towards helping the countries implement ECE as well as international recommendations,

norms, standards, guidelines and tools, as part of their broader reform efforts to address capacity shortfalls in 4 areas: trade facilitation, standardization, regulatory cooperation and quality assurance. Below is an overview of the national actions.

(a) The Albanian government integrated the recommendations to the National Plan for European Integration for the period 2014-2016; the Inter-sectoral Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Development in Albania for the period 2014-2020; and the Business and Investment Development Strategy for the period 2014-2020. This has been stated in the foreword to the study that was consigned by the ECE executive secretary and the Minister of Economic Development, Tourism, Trade and Enterprise.

(b) The Government of the Republic of Moldova integrated all the recommendations emerging from the UNECE study on regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in the country, as part of its action plan for implementing the Agreement on Trade Facilitation. The government adopted a resolution to that effect in late 2017 (Government Decision No. 1065 of 12 December 2017).

(c) The Government of the Republic of Moldova is also revising its Customs Code in line with the recommendations emerging from the above-mentioned study, and the secretariat assisted the Government in conducting the revision.

(d) Kazakhstan provided a written report on progress made in implementing the recommendations emerging from the ECE study during the third annual session of the ECE Steering Committee on Trade capacity and standards (ECE/CTCS/2017/5).

(e) Belarus provided a written report on progress made in implementing the recommendations emerging from the ECE study during the third session of the SCTCS (ECE/CTCS/2017/4).

(f) Kyrgyzstan presented a written report on progress made in implementing the recommendations emerging from the ECE study during the third session of the SCTCS (ECE/CTCS/2017/6).

23. The reports submitted by the Belarus, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan list actions in the aforementioned 4 areas. The ECE also assisted the Governments in implementing their actions, including through capacity-building projects that were designed in cooperation with international development partners.

**Lessons learned**

24. Engaging public-private sector stakeholders in ECE Studies is critical for ensuring policy responsiveness and national ownership. Equally important is the adaptation of the study methodology to the specific development context of the reviewed country. To ensure policy coherence across the four areas addressed in the studies, the secretariat relies on in-house experience in drafting the studies and developing the recommendations, using, as background information, technical reports by consultants and the results of the enterprises surveys.

25. Coordination with donors and international organizations is pursued during the early stages of the research process to avoid duplication. To facilitate implementation, action-oriented solutions are explored, in terms of their feasibility and impact, during the preparation of the studies and are integrated into the recommendations. Moreover, the recommendations are integrated, in their totality, into the national United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) of the respective countries.

United Nations ECE/CTCS/2018/13

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
19 February 2018

Original: English

**Economic Commission for Europe**

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

**Fourth session**
Geneva, 3-4 May 2018
Item 6 (f) of the provisional agenda
**Programme of work**

# Trade Subprogramme's Strategic Framework for 2020-2021

*Summary*

This document contains the trade subprogramme's strategic framework for the biennium 2020-2021, which was endorsed by the Bureau members in October 2017.

The document is presented to the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards for information.

GE.18-02524(E)

*1802524*

Please recycle

## Subprogramme 06: Trade

### I. Objectives for the biennium, expected accomplishments, indicators of achievement and performance measures

Objective of the Organization: To foster a conducive policy and regulatory environment for trade in goods and economic cooperation in the ECE region

| *Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat* | *Indicators of achievement* | | *Performance measures* | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | *2020-2021* | *2018-2019* | *2016-2017* | *2014-2015* |
| (a) Increased consensus on and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business | (i) Number of new and/or revised recommendations, norms, standards and tools for trade facilitation and electronic business adopted by ECE intergovernmental bodies | Target | 22 | 22 | 22 | 24 |
| | | Estimate | | 22 | 22 | 24 |
| | | Actual | | | 51 | 25 |
| | (ii) Number of new measures introduced by member States to implement ECE trade recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools | Target | 4 | 4 | | |
| | | Estimate | 4 | 4 | | |
| | | Actual | | | | |
| (b) Increased consensus on the development of ECE recommendations and guidelines for regulatory cooperation. | Number of new and/or revised recommendations and guidelines for regulatory cooperation adopted by ECE intergovernmental bodies | Target | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| | | Estimate | | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| | | Actual | | | 4 | 1 |
| (c) Increased consensus on and strengthened implementation of ECE recommendations, norms, standards, guidelines and tools for agricultural quality standards | (i) Number of new and/or revised recommendations and standards on agricultural produce adopted by ECE intergovernmental bodies | Target | 25 | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| | | Estimate | | 25 | 25 | 25 |
| | | Actual | | | 39 | 33 |
| | (ii) Increased number of implementations of ECE agricultural quality standards by member States | Target | 1600 | 1500 | 1000 | 1000 |
| | | Estimate | | 1500 | 1000 | 1000 |
| | | Actual | | | 1500 | 1439 |
| (d) Strengthened capacity for export diversification in the ECE region | (i) Number of new measures introduced by member States to remove regulatory and procedural barriers and increase the contribution of trade in goods to export diversification | Target | 10 | | | |

### II. Strategy

1. The Economic Cooperation and Trade Division is responsible for implementing the subprogramme. The subprogramme will contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the achievement of the trade-related

Sustainable Development Goals to support, in particular, Goals 8 and 9. The objective of the subprogramme will be achieved through:

(a) International policy dialogue on removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade, including those caused by administrative procedures as well as documentary and regulatory requirements, which hamper market access and undermine the trade sector's contribution to export diversification;

(b) Normative work to develop standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation, agricultural quality standards and regulatory cooperation;

(c) Demand-driven training workshops and advisory services to support the implementation of ECE standards and recommendations and to disseminate best practices and lessons learned in the subprogramme's areas of work.

2. The subprogramme will contribute to the establishment of an open, rule-based, predictable, efficient and non-discriminatory trading system in the region, which is geared towards supporting the achievement of export diversification. To that end, the subprogramme will promote:

(a) Simple, transparent and effective supply chain processes through the development and maintenance of trade facilitation instruments;

(b) A predictable and harmonized regulatory environment by strengthening regulatory cooperation and promoting standards and best practices in regulatory frameworks, risk management, conformity assessment and market surveillance;

(c) Agricultural trade through the development of agricultural quality standards and explanatory guidelines;

(d) Export diversification through the development of recommendations on removing regulatory and procedural barriers to trade in goods and strengthening the capacity for their implementation.

3. The subprogramme will support Governments in their national and regional adaptation and implementation of ECE trade-related standards and recommendations in the areas of trade facilitation, agricultural quality standards, regulatory cooperation and trade policy.

## III. External factors

4. The subprogramme is expected to achieve its objective and expected accomplishments on the assumption that: (a) there is political will and cooperation among Governments and international organizations; (b) there is demand for ECE standards and recommendations; (c) member States provide the necessary information; (d) there is active participation by experts in ECE technical meetings; and (e) donors' support for the work of the subprogramme is adequate.

## IV. Legislative mandates

**Overall ECE legislative mandates***

*General Assembly resolutions*

* As of 20 June 2017. To be updated by PMU

| | |
|---|---|
| 66/288 | The future we want |
| 67/10 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Eurasian Economic Community |
| 69/313 | Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (Addis Ababa Action Agenda) |
| 70/1 | Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development |
| 70/133 | Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly |
| 70/221 | Operational activities for development of the United Nations system |
| 71/10 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Commonwealth of Independent States |
| 71/13 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Central European Initiative |
| 71/14 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization |
| 71/16 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Economic Cooperation Organization |
| 71/18 | Cooperation between the United Nations and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization |
| 71/162 | Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly |
| 71/212 | Information and communications technologies for development |
| 71/223 | Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development and of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development |
| 71/226 | Disaster risk reduction |
| 71/228 | Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind |
| 71/233 | Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all |
| 71/243 | Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system |
| 71/244 | South-South cooperation |
| 71/283 | Progress towards an accountability system in the United Nations Secretariat |

*Economic and Social Council resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 2006/38 | Workplan on reform of the Economic Commission for Europe and revised terms of reference of the Commission |
| 2013/1 | Outcome of the review of the 2005 Reform of the Economic Commission for Europe |

| | |
|---|---|
| 2016/2 | Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system |

*Economic Commission for Europe decisions*

| | |
|---|---|
| A (64) | The Work of the Economic Commission for Europe |
| A (65) | Outcome of the review of the 2005 reform of ECE |
| A (66) | Endorsement of the High-level statement on the post-2015 development agenda and expected sustainable development goals in the ECE region |
| A(67) | Adoption of the High-level statement |
| B(67) | Establishment of the Regional Forum on Sustainable Development |

**Legislative mandates specific to the subprogramme**

**Subprogramme 6: Trade**

*General Assembly resolutions*

| | |
|---|---|
| 69/137 | Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 |
| 69/213 | Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development |
| 70/217 | Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries |
| 71/239 | Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries |
| 71/242 | Industrial development cooperation |
| 71/245 | Agriculture development, food security and nutrition |

*Economic and Social Council resolution*

| | |
|---|---|
| 1991/76 | Promotion of interregional cooperation in the area of international trade facilitation |

*Economic and Social Council decision*

| | |
|---|---|
| 1997/225 | Economic Commission for Europe Recommendation 25, entitled "Use of the UN/EDIFACT Standard" |

United Nations ECE/CTCS/2018/14

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
19 February 2018

Original: English

**Economic Commission for Europe**

Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards

**Fourth session**
Geneva, 3-4 May 2018
Item 6 (f) of the provisional agenda
**Trade subprogramme's strategic framework for 2020-2021**

# Trade Subprogramme's Strategic Framework for 2020-2021: Note by the secretariat

1. In December 2017, the 72nd session of the General Assembly (GA) adopted resolution A/72/266 "Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations." Under the terms of this resolution, Member States approved the main elements of the Secretary-General's budget reform proposals contained in his report "Shifting the management paradigm in the United Nations: improving and streamlining the programme planning and budgeting process" (A/72/492/Add.1).

2. In particular, the GA approved the proposed change from a biennial to an annual budget cycle on a trial basis (beginning in 2020). The Proposed Programme Budget will consist of the following three parts:

(a) Part I: the plan outline, which presents the long-term priorities and the objectives of the Organization;

(b) Part II: the programme plan for programmes and subprogrammes and programme performance information; and

(c) Part III: the post and non-post resource requirements for the programmes and subprogrammes.

3. The United Nations Headquarters in New York is in the process of developing the structure, template and guidance for the 2020 annual programme plan and budget. Part I will be prepared by the United Nations headquarters in New York, and submitted to the GA through the Committee for Programme and Coordination every 3 years. Parts II and III will be prepared by the secretariats of the United Nations departments, including ECE, on an annual basis. They will be submitted to the GA through the Committee for Programme and Coordination (Part II) and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (Part III).

4. In light of the above, the Trade subprogramme's draft Strategic Framework for 2020-2021 (contained in document ECE/CTCS/2018/13) will not be finalized. Its main elements will be included in the draft ECE programme plan and budget for 2020. Given

GE.18-02526(E)

*1802526*

Please recycle

that the next session of the Steering Committee on Trade Capacity and Standards will be held in 2019, delegates are invited to review and endorse the broad areas of work contained in the Trade subprogramme's Strategic Framework for 2020-2021 and provide their comments to the secretariat. The broad areas will be included in the document, which will be submitted to the Bureau of the Steering Committee for comments at the end of 2018. The document will then be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions for their consideration during their annual sessions in 2019. Their recommendations therein will be transmitted to the GA during its seventy-third session in 2019, when member States will consider the Secretary-General's proposed programme plan and budget for 2020.